

Be Calm and Serve Humbly

© Evangelist Mai¹

Evangelist of a church in the South Central region

The pandemic has not only affected the society and the economy, our church has also closed down and suspended its meetings temporarily on several occasions. Even when we resumed our services recently, we experienced the impact of the outflux of existing believers and influx of believers from other churches. At this moment, my heart is confused - how should we face it? We still need to move on, Lord, please guide us!

Be calm and tackle internal issues

The church is facing internal challenges and crises arising from the massive loss of believers. First of all, due to the impact of the pandemic and the unfavourable economic downturn, many believers had to go to live in big cities to explore new opportunities. I have been keeping contact with them after they moved to big cities, yet they are busy working long hours making a living, and gradually they are neglecting their faith, or even giving up their faith. My heart aches at the sight of what is happening.

In addition, the constant loss of believers in our church has made it extremely difficult to administer regular pastoral care. In our area, there is a large number of empty nesters, left-behind children, single-parent families, etc. Besides providing individual pastoral care to them, the church needs to recruit believers into the visitation team and to build deeper relationships with them. However, to recruit an adequate number of believers who can participate regularly in outreach visitation is never an easy task.



Evangelist Mai and several church leaders gathered and prepared to visit the sick in the hospital.

The church leaders and I have often prayed before the Lord that our hearts could find rest and our minds could be purified in Him, be calm and humble at all times, and be practical

when reaching out to those in need of the Lord's Gospel according to the teachings of the Bible. This may appear awfully simple to understand, yet it is never easy to put it into practice, and we need to constantly remind one another.

Be humble and receive members from different churches

Recently, several churches in our town are preparing to merge in order to cope with the changing environment. Although we all understand the principle of "one family in the Lord," when faced with the practicalities of doing so, a series of issues came before us. Besides the handling of church assets, another more important issue is mutual acceptance, as we all carry with us the congregational cultures of our respective churches.

Pastors must be careful in responding to different views held by believers. First and foremost is to listen to and understand believers' concerns regarding the diversities in culture and practices of different churches, and their worries about the need for adjustment when previously established arrangements have to be changed. Thereafter, pastors should teach and remind believers to learn to accept one another as "members of God's family". Avoid pinpointing a prick in another's eye yet neglecting a pillar in one's own eye—that is a biblical teaching that must be put into practice. When believers focus on the Lord, they will be able to forbear one another's differences and learn to be united.

We believe that these difficulties are within the Lord's permitted realm, and that the Lord uses these challenges to nurture and prune us. We should not try to mask or evade the challenges but should surrender ourselves fully before the Lord, believing that the dazzling scene of a blossoming meadow will eventually emerge at the end of the shade and it is beckoning to us, and that the joining of other church members will expand the scope of our ministry, so that with our reliance on the Lord, we can walk steadfastly to the end!



Even though Evangelist Mai encounters many difficulties in her ministry, she piously follows the Lord's guidance and serves diligently.

¹ Evangelist Mai has started receiving the "Living Subsidy for Evangelists" since September 2017.

Please Support the 2022 “Living Subsidy for Evangelists”

Funds required: USD 128,205

Empowered by her reliance on the Lord, Evangelist Mai overcame the restlessness in her heart and is now actively pastoring to her sheep. Are you willing to walk with evangelists like Mai so that they can serve attentively on the frontline?

Project details: support the basic living needs and ministry expenses of a total of 30 evangelists in Southwest, Northwest, South Central and Eastern China.

We sincerely invite you to offer your support, thank you!

~~~~~

~The above is part of the content of PFC issue350, if you would like to read the full newsletter,  
please contact us at [pfc@ccl.org.hk](mailto:pfc@ccl.org.hk), thank you!~

All rights reserved. Neither this publication nor any part of it may be reproduced or transmitted in any form or by any means, without the prior permission of Christian Communications Limited. Publication is published every month by Christian Communications Limited.